United Nations E/2004/76

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2004

Original: English

Substantive session of 2004
28 June-23 July 2004
Item 14 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Social and human rights questions: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Letter dated 2 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit, herewith, a note verbale dated 7 May 2004 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, concerning Ghana's decision to apply for membership of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (see annex). It would be greatly appreciated if the relevant organs of the United Nations could be notified of Ghana's request to enable the membership of the Executive Committee to be expanded pursuant to Ghana's application for membership.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2004/100.

04-38666 (E) 280604

Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana has the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Ghana has decided to submit its application for membership of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Republic of Ghana has met the requisite criteria laid down by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to qualify for membership of the Committee. The Government of Ghana, in support of its application, wishes to state that Ghana has a track record of positively responding to refugee crisis, as evinced by its commitment to attending to refugee needs and offering a safe abode to hundreds of thousands of refugees currently residing in Ghana.

In furtherance of the country's commitment, the Government of Ghana has been upholding the principle of non-refoulement and granting unfettered access to hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers, in close collaboration with UNHCR, through the latter's numerous programmes aimed at offering protection to refugees in the country.

The Republic of Ghana, in this regard, has demonstrated its commitment to refugees issues and has ratified and acceded to all international instruments addressing refugee problems and has further incorporated these instruments into its domestic laws by passing into law the Ghana Refugee Law of 1992.

Ghana's admission to membership of the Committee would facilitate enhanced care and protection of refugees in the subregion and Africa in general, in a true spirit of solidarity and international burden-sharing.